

Wm. W. Norton

Oct 18. 1851

My dear Madam,

I trust you will ^{not} consider
me as obtruding the feeling &
opinion of others upon
you, if I send you the
following extract from
a letter I received from
my father.

"I took up the
paper to-day, without
having had any knowledge

of Robert Whetton's illness,
read the account of his death.
It came with a shock upon me.
Though I had but a slight
acquaintance with him, I felt
interested in him, partly, I suppose
on account of his father, but
quite as much from that
combination of manliness and
refinement that marked his
character. Mr. Parker, who sat
opposite to him in the office, day
after day, for so long a time, must
feel deeply his sudden death. Then,
there are his Mother & sisters &c

alone. They must have looked up to
him as their only protector, in this (of late,
~~at least~~ to them) hard world. They must
have had high hopes & an honest pride
in him. And there are tears from them now.
In afflictions of such a nature, however
heavy they may be, is it not true that
almost the first feeling that stirs the
heart of every right minded man, is
that of the goodness & love of God? How is
it that some griefs could be borne ^{by men} before
Christ came & spoke to us, & then died
for us? - I know not how. How distinctly
Wheeler is now standing before me - his
form, his voice, his smile! I never think
of death as something entire in itself -
life is always with it, if not in it, to
me; & this because of our immortality -

is it not so? Amer! & Amer! "

Again, in a note I had
from him to-day, he says -

"I do not wonder at his being so
present to you. There was something
morally beautiful in Mr. Wheaton" -

With the kindest regards, I
am, my dear Madam,

Yours true & obedient servant

Rich^d H. Dana Jr

Mrs. Henry Wheaton